

General Meeting

Friday July 15, 2011 7:30pm

Our Saviors Lutheran Church
1035 Carol Lane Lafayette

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|-------------------------------------|----------|
| July Meeting Program | 1 |
| Officers and Appointees | 2 |
| Amateur Radio Publications | 2 |
| Help Wanted | 2 |
| June Meeting Minutes | 3 |
| Club Field Day | 4 |
| Kati, K7STI visits Field Day | 6 |
| Ham Radio Outlet | 7 |
| Club Repeaters | 8 |
| Club Calendar | 8 |

President's QTC - July Meeting

Whether you are a beginner or are experienced, knowing how to identify and fix problems with your amateur radio equipment is an important skill.

At our monthly meeting, NO6W, WA6CIE and KA6SFT will present "Basic Ham Shack Troubleshooting for the Beginning and More Experienced Ham."

A panel discussion will follow this presentation.

— John Ronan, K3ZJJ



**Affiliated
Club**





Amateur Radio Publications Now on Sale at Monthly Club Meetings

At each monthly meeting, a table of amateur radio publications chosen to meet the interests of its members from the newest licensee to the most seasoned operator. The available publications cover a broad range of interests including ARRL emergency communication publications, repeater directories, license class manuals and the ARRL *Handbook*.

Our club has negotiated prices for these publications to save members money. Purchases of the publications may be made with cash or check. Plan to stop by the table of publications on display at the next club meeting.

HELP WANTED

The **Education and Training Committee** is seeking club members that are interested in joining the MDARC/SATERN team of volunteer amateur radio instructors for in-class Technician and General License Course teaching opportunities. We also seek club members that are interested in joining Glen, NO6W's "Elmer" table to help our lesser experienced club members with their amateur radio questions. The club also seeks volunteers to help with Amateur Radio Publications sales at the regular monthly club meetings. Please contact John Primus, AF6RJ, at af6rj@arrl.net for further information.

Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club W6CX
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The Carrier is a monthly publication of the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC). It is the policy of the editor to publish all material submitted by the membership provided such material is in good taste, relevant to amateur radio and of interest to MDARC members, and provided space is available.

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PACIFICON 2011

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School Liaisons - Jim Siemons AF6PU and Misa Siemons KJ6BUE
Communications Trailer - Brent Morgan AF6HQ
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ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE CLUB
YAHOO GROUP. DOWNLOAD FILES, INCLUDING
THE CARRIER IN FULL COLOR AS WELL AS SHARE
INFORMATION WITH THE MEMBERSHIP AT:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mdarc>

The meeting was held at the Grace Lutheran Church on Carol Lane in Lafayette, Ca. and was called to order at 7:33 PM by President John Ronan, K3ZJJ.

The meeting opened with the introduction of new members, guests, new licensees and those that upgraded this evening. The VEC new license count was not noted at this meeting.

Jim Siemons gave a dissertation about Field Day describing this year's location and what it is all about. He told that it was about amateur radio simulated emergency operations off the local power grid and that all amateur bands and operational modes were utilized. He explained that the event was open to the public and they could actively participate in the operation of the stations there. He put out a call for help to make this event a success.

Pete Harris spoke to the members about Public Service, explained its purpose and the required equipment. He noted some upcoming events and asked for volunteers. He pointed out that the events were listed on the MDARC.ORG website on the public service page.

K3ZJJ introduced Tom Kramer, our club Emergency Coordinator. Tom reviewed a recent RACES meeting held at the County EOC that was chaired by Harry Styron, the county RACES EC. He talked about the purpose of RACES being to provide emergency communication for Contra Costa County during a crisis. He noted that there is a net every Thursday evening at 6:35pm on 80 meters at 3890 KHz. He said that some exercises are held with CERTS groups. Tom continued with an explanation of what ARES is and it's similarities with RACES. President John gave kudos to those emergency coordinators for their fine work.

George Tichner spoke about the 2011 youth program and that there new amateur radio tests coming. He went on to give the club credit for its VEC accomplishments.

WA6JAU briefed all on the changes on Mount Diablo effecting the club's equipment there. He spoke about the gains and losses due to the changes. He said that a pre-amp that services ATV was re-installed down near the receiver input. He reported that the 220 Mhz power amplifier failed and had to be repaired. It is back in service. There followed a discussion about antenna changes on the tower.

K3ZJJ announced that Kati, K7STI, is our club's nominee for the 'Young Ham of the Year' award. He said she would be attending Field Day. (Secretary's update - Katy and Field Day were featured in a pictorial article in a local newspaper).

There was no old or new business noted.

There was a break at 8:10pm followed by a presentation by David Haycock on testing antennae and the equipment available to accomplish this. The presentation was well received by the members and there were numerous questions and answers.

There was the raffle and adjournment at 10:15pm.

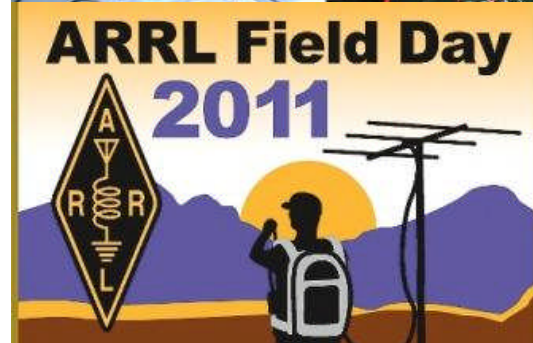
Respectfully submitted by –

Richard Fletcher, AF9RF
Secretary

Field Day June 25-26, 2011

Heather Farms Park

Walnut Creek, California



Field Day June 24-25-26, 2011

Field Day 2011 was one of the best ever! “Everything worked pretty well.” said Field Day Chairman WA6CIE.

Seventy MDARC members participated, including a number of new Hams who got on the air for the first time. We received a number of interested visitors from the public due to our high visibility location and extensive coverage in the newspapers. We made over 700 contacts.

We were visited by Bob Vallio W6RGG Pacific Division Director and Jim Latham AF6AQ East Bay Section Manager both of whom were complimentary of Field Day operation.

The Field Day Team arrived at Heather Farm Park at 8 AM Friday to set up non-radio logistics. The Field Day site was on the grassy knoll beside the Nature Lagoon just north of the Community Center. We were assigned the two adjacent rows of parking space which was cordoned off for our use.

At noon Friday we began setting up the radio equipment and the entire Field Day site was set up by 6 PM.

One crisis occurred when a rope supporting the 80 Meter dipole got stuck in the top of a lamp post. Lauren solve the problem with a long pole to which was taped a hot dog cooking fork!

Our first (test) contact was made at 4 PM with the Canary Islands on 40 Meters by Larry WW6US., Our most distant contact was New Zealand.

Lauren WA6CIE and Elizabeth KG6HLV Styles, Field Day Chairmen operated W6CX as class 3A operating four transmitters. The fourth transmitter operated on VHF and UHF, which under Field Day rules does not count in our transmitter tally.

The new MDARC Logging Program was used for the first time which sent logging data via “wi-fi” from the operating positions to a centralized computer in the Communications Trailer.

This year we were joined by the Walnut Creek CERT group which ran drills and communication tests from the Field Day site. The CERT coordinator was Richard Dubey KJ6CWQ.

We were also joined by two of our newest MDARC members, Kati Stendsrud, K7KTI, and Lief Stendsrud, KF7AMY. Kati, an 11-year-old General Class licensee, is a keen 30 words per minute-plus CW operator, a leader in the Reno, Nevada amateur radio community and a stellar representative of the future of amateur radio.

The MDARC Board "adopted" Kati and has supported her nomination for the Young Ham Of The Year award. Her nomination is also supported by ARRL Pacific Division Director Bob Vallio W6RGG and Southeastern Division Vice Director Andrea Hartledge KI4IUM.

Our band captains were Jim Siemons AF6PU (80 M and 15 M), Larry Lecrone WW6USA and Kathy Reed KD6USA (40 M), Lauren Styles WA6CIE (20 M and 10 M), Trevor Raty KG6MDW and Steve Wagoner KA6SFT (6M, 2M and 440 MHz).

Elizabeth Styles, KG6HLV, and Ruth Miller, KE6AWR, and her family operated the Salvation Army canteen van. Meals were provided to all radio operators.

Field Day was a great weekend of good friends, good food, good radio, and great fun! — *John Ronan, K3ZJJ*



**Kati, K7STI, operates
at MDARC Field Day**

Sometime in May I was talking on the phone with John, K3ZJJ about ideas and preparations for Pacificon 2011 and the youth program.

Kati and I also decided to join MDARC, as we are impressed about the high level of activity and healthy diversity of activities, and wanted to support the effort of the club. MDARC to us is a shining example of how to run a successful ham radio club.

During these conversations, John mentioned that we would be more than welcome to celebrate Field Day with MDARC, and invited us to stay at his house. Long story short, we rearranged our plans for FD, and on Friday June 24 we set out for John's house. We arrived at John's house mid afternoon and after unpacking the truck and having a cup of coffee we went to the FD site.

The site was like a circus coming to town, without the elephants. Organized chaos at its very best, antennas got erected, operating stations set up, sleeping quarters (tents and RV's) organized and people everywhere helping out and pulling their load. Even more, all we met made us feel very welcome and I have to thank Misa, KJ6BUE, especially for her welcoming of Kati, K7KTI, and making sure Kati had a great time.

Saturday we arrived somewhat late in the morning, and the site was buzzing of activity and last minute preparations, organized chaos on its best. Kati and I was operating 15M from Jim AF6PU's setup (a beautiful station setup), and despite lack of cooperation from band conditions, made a few contacts.

MDARC FD again had it nailed, we worked the contest part of FD, but it did not get in the way of the idea with FD, promote ham radio, prove operating of the grid capacity and most of all, have FUN. Lot of people stopped by and got information about FD, ham radio and how to become a ham, and quite a few expressed interest in getting their ticket.

We also had a meeting about Pacificon 2011, and got quite a few things in place.

Both Kati and I got a bunch of new friends, reconnected with old friends and had a great time.

Kati and I are impressed about the activity level of MDARC, the people of MDARC, and we are proud to be accepted as members and being a part (however distant) of the club.

Thank you to John for inviting us, thank you to members for welcoming us. We had a great time.

73, Kati K7KTI and Leif KF7AMY



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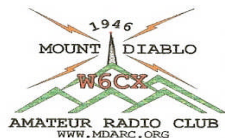
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The Carrier

Newsletter of the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 23222

Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

www.mdarc.org

FIRST CLASS

W6CX Nets

Monday 7:00 pm Washington High School Net 147.060+

Monday 8:00 pm SATERN Net 147.060+

Thursday 7:30 pm MDARC Club Net 147.060+

Thursday 8:00 pm General ATV Net 1241.250+

Tuesday 7:30pm Fat City 10 meter SSB/CW Net 28.420 MHz

FM 147.060 MHz + / PL 100Hz - EchoLink: W6CX-R /133896, IRLP: 3057
224.780 MHz - / PL 77Hz 441.325 MHz + / PL 100Hz

ATV Input: 1289.25 MHz AM/FM. Outputs: 1241.25 MHz AM, 919.25 MHz AM

ATV Internet Stream: <http://www.w6cxatv.net/live>

Contra Costa County Emergency Communications Nets

Every Thursday, 7:00 pm

Central County 145.680 Simplex

East County 146.535 Simplex

South County 146.355/+ (100 PL)

West County 145.110/- (107.3 PL)

HF Net 8pm First Thursday of each month 3.890 MHz LSB

July — August 2011 Club Calendar

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|--|
| Friday July 15, 2011 | 7:30 pm | MDARC General Meeting <i>Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette</i> |
| Monday August 1, 2011 | 7:00 pm | MDARC Board Meeting <i>Buttercup Bar & Grill 660 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek</i> |
| Saturday August 6, 2011 | 9:00 am | MDARC Technical Committee <i>Environmental Center, 2581 Harbor Street, Pittsburg</i> |
| Friday August 19, 2011 | 7:30 pm | MDARC General Meeting <i>Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette</i> |